

Mystery Bliers Says; CIA Clears and Him

Flight Report Covers Jailing by the Soviet

Vinson Declares Obligations as American Met

By Richard L. Lyons
Staff Reporter

The Central Intelligence Agency said yesterday it has concluded that U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers complied with his contract and his "obligations as an American" during his ordeal in the Soviet Union.

A summary of CIA's report on Powers' secret reconnaissance flight that failed on May 1, 1960, was released at the Capitol yesterday by the chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. They had heard this and other classified information in closed session from CIA Director John A. McCone.

House Chairman Carl Vinson (D-Ga.) said he agreed with the CIA that Powers met his obligations to employer and country. Senate Chairman Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) said "it is apparent Powers did not violate his contract of employment."

To Get Back Pay

One practical effect of the report for Powers is that CIA said it will now give him his back pay. At the rate of \$2500 a month this exceeds \$55,000 since the day his high-altitude photographic plane crashed in the heart of the Soviet Union. McCone told reporters Powers is still a CIA employee.

The report went a long way toward explaining Powers' actions in the air and on the ground. In freely admitting his mission he was following instructions, CIA said.

U-2 pilots were selected on the basis of their ability to fly a plane, their stamina, stability and security, the report said.

"They were not selected or trained as espionage agents," CIA said. "Their job was to fly the plane."

U-2 pilots were instructed if captured to be "cooperative within limits," the report said, "and not to subject themselves to strenuous hostile interrogation."

Needle Was Optional

CIA said there were no instructions or expectation that a captured U-2 pilot would commit suicide unless tortured. The publicized poison needle Powers took with him was optional equipment.

Powers was "one of the outstanding pilots" in the U-2 program, the report said, an expert pilot and navigator and one who had performed calmly in previous emergencies. No evidence was found that Powers was trying to defect to the Soviets or that his plane had

been sabotaged, the report said.

After his capture, Powers was kept in solitary confinement for about 100 days and questioned each day, sometimes as long as 12 hours. Powers told CIA that no physical violence or "severe hostile methods" were used against him, and that in some cases the Soviets accepted his refusal to answer.

Powers told the CIA that when he refused to give names of other U-2 pilots on grounds they would lose their jobs, his Soviet interrogators did not press him further. He said he believed he had given only information already known to the Soviets.

At his trial, CIA said, Powers had only the advice of his Soviet defense counsel. His advice was that if Powers didn't plead guilty and express "penitence" he might be killed. After the trial Powers said he was questioned little and treated well.

CIA said Powers' actions as he told them were "consistent with his instructions."

Since his release Feb. 10, Powers has been questioned for days and every detail of his story carefully analyzed by expert interrogators, aeronautic engineers, psychiatrists and a board of inquiry headed by Judge E. Barrett Prettyman. He also voluntarily subjected himself to a lie detector which showed no indica-

tion of any deviation from the truth.

All who questioned Powers felt he was telling the truth, the CIA reported.

McCone spent all yesterday at the Capitol giving the CIA's report on the Powers story to interested committees. He testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee in the morning and before the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees in the afternoon. On Monday he had appeared before House and Senate Armed Services subcommittees on CIA.